

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

10 June 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. At 2:25 p.m. on 16 April 1952, 18 swept-back jet fighters and 3 Yak-11s were observed at Koethen airfield. Take-offs were made by two planes [redacted] 50X1-HUM  
[redacted] Additional take-offs were made by planes [redacted] at 3:18 p.m., 3:21 p.m. and 3:48 p.m. When dark clouds came up at 3:20 p.m., the swept-back jet fighters were towed to the hangars by jeeps. On 17 April between 8:10 a.m. and noon, there was flying by swept-back jet fighters in groups of two and, after 4 p.m., individual planes circled the area. On 18 April, between 7 and 10 a.m., swept-back jet fighters circled the field and, after 4:30 p.m., there was flying by Yak-11s. On 23 April, the sky was partly cloudy. There was individual flying by Yak-11s between 11:30 a.m. and noon and by swept-back jet fighters 50X1-HUM between 3 and 6 p.m. On 24 April, there was no flying in rainy weather. 50X1-HUM
2. Between 4:55 and 5:30 p.m. on 18 April, [redacted] individual swept-back jet fighters made approach flights from an altitude of about 200 meters. The firing of an aircraft cannon was heard. Approach flights were observed at 4:55, 4:56, 4:58, 5:06, 5:10, 5:11 and 5:13 p.m. It appeared that some approach flights were made by aircraft flying in groups of two. On 22 April, [redacted] a Yak-11 made 50X1-HUM an approach flight. 50X1-HUM
3. Between 4 and 5:30 p.m. on 28 April, there was no flying at the field although the weather was favorable. Four swept-back jet fighters [redacted] were parked near the hardstand used by the alert flight. A radio truck, 2 jeeps and 1 truck were nearby. The doors of two hangars were closed. Nine swept-back jet fighters covered with tarpaulins were parked next to the third hangar. The radio installation near Wuelknitz was no longer observed. (1) Next to a hangar there were three motor vehicles covered with tarpaulins, probably twin-barrel AA guns of medium calibers. 50X1-HUM
4. On 29 and 30 April, and on 5, 7 and 8 May, no air activity by swept-back jet fighters was observed. There was no night flying during the nights of 7 and 8 May. On 5 May, four swept-back jet fighters were parked in the area used by the alert planes. At 1 p.m. on 6 May, a swept-back jet fighter crossed over Koethen. On 8 May, no alert planes were observed at the field. Twenty-two swept-back jet fighters were parked in front of and between the hangars; 4 planes of the same type and 2 Yak-11s were at the take-off point. It is possible that more swept-back jet fighters were parked near the hangars. Of the 22 planes only 9 could be observed from a close distance since the tarpaulins had a good camouflage.

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Maintenance work was being done on almost all planes. [redacted] At the take-off point, there were 14 motor vehicles including 1 radio truck with two rod antennas and an observation unit on top, 4 jeeps, tank trucks and trucks. A Yak-11 landed at 1:45 p.m. and plane of the same type took off at 2:17 p.m. Between 9 and 11 a.m. on 7 May, there was intensive local flying by swept-back jet fighters. Activity stopped at 11 a.m., apparently because of a thunderstorm.

50X1-HUM

- 5. Recently, enlisted female Soviet Air Force personnel have been observed at the field. They wore brown jackets and skirts and air force epaulets. For some time, many officers wearing blouses with decorations and officers with golden braid around their caps have been observed in Koethen. There were more administrative officers than previously. (2)
- 6. The containers in fuel dump I, which were previously put under ground, were covered with bricks. The sleeve of the containers projected above the surface. In fuel dump II, there were two groups of three above-ground containers which were painted white. (3)
- 7. On 8 May, three instruments or weapons covered with tarpaulins, probably AA guns, were observed on the target range. (4)
- 8. The following motor vehicles were observed in Koethen and on the way to and from the field: trucks [redacted] jeeps [redacted] kitchen truck [redacted] and sedan [redacted] painted black. (5)

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Comments.

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- (1) [redacted] an Adcock DF station and probably a radio beacon were located there in early March 1952. [redacted] The present location of these installations is not known.
- (2) No indications of an increase of personnel at Koethen have been observed. It is possible that more officers were in the town because of the May Day celebrations.
- (3) The two fuel dumps are located in the northeastern corner of the field. Fuel dump I is located farther to the south. It is believed that one fuel dump is assigned to each of the units stationed at the field respectively.
- (4) [redacted] the AA guns are light or medium guns, which may belong to AAA units of the Soviet Army. It has not been observed that heavy army AAA arrived in Koethen as was observed at other airfields.
- (5) [redacted] The field is occupied by a new fighter regiment and an unidentified unit which is also equipped with MiG-15s. The total number of MiG-15s [redacted] because of the hangars at the field. Because of previous observations that far more than 100 crated MiG-15s were shipped to Koethen after late-January 1952, it is believed that the two units stationed there are equipped with the authorized number of MiG-15s. Most of the incoming MiG-15s were probably dispatched to other units. The information that alert flights have been observed again at the field indicate that the new fighter regiment at the field has reached an advance stage of training.

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